

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00893 042229Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /125 W

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P 042140Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4881

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS: DUARTE CONTINUES CAMPAIGN FOR
UNO

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0886

1. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANOPLEON DUARTE, ACTIVELY
CAMPAIGNING FOR THE UNO COALITION, APPEARED BEFORE UES STUDENTS
FEB. 28 AND ON THE OPPOSITION'S FINAL TV SHOW THE EVENING OF
MARCH 3. PDC LEADERS HAD EARLIER VOICED SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT
DUARTE'S VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY SINCE MORE EXTREMIST STUDENT
GROUPS HAVE LONG CRITICIZED THE BOURGEOIS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
FOR EVEN PARTICIPATING IN THE EXISTING POLITICAL STRUCTURE.
THE RECEPTION, HOWEVER, WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND WHEN DUARTE
WAS ASKED WHY THE PDC WAS AGAIN IN THE ELECTORAL CONTEST
FOLLOWING ITS EXPERIENCE IN 1972, DUARTE QUICKLY REPLIED THAT
IT WAS PARTICIPATING FOR THE SAME REASON THE STUDENT ASKING
THE QUESTION WAS ATTENDING A GOVERNMENT "INTERVENED" UNIVERSITY,
I.E., THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE TO GO.

2. IN HIS TV ADDRESS, DUARTE APPEARED WITH MNR LEADER (AND HIS
FORMER VICE PRESIDENTIAL COLLEAGUE) MANUEL UNGO AND WITH SAN
SALVADOR MAYORALTY CANDIDATE MORASLES EHRICH. DUARTE BEGAN BY
ASSURING HIS FOLLOWERS THAT HE WOULD RETURN PERMANENTLY TO
EL SALVADOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THE ELECTION IN ORDER TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00893 042229Z

LEAD THE FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE AND "SHARE ITS SUFFERING".

(COMMENT: MOF ROMERO RECENTLY TOLD DATT MATTER OF FACTLY THAT DUARTE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO RESIDE IN EL SALVADOR). AS IN HIS PREVIOUS TV ADDRESS, DUARTE FOCUSED ON COST OF LIVING QUESTION. HE CITED SHARP INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS THAT HE CONTENDED REFLECT THE INTERNAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS FACING THE COUNTRY AND HE ASSERTED THE GOVERNMENT LACKED THE POLICY OR DIRECTION TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES. HE TERMED THE PCN NATIONALISTIC POSTURE A "SMOKESCREEN" AND, WITHOUT MENTION THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT INVESTMENT BY NAME, CITE THE GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED 25 MILLION COLON LOAN TO A "MAJOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION" AS EVIDENCE OF ITS "ENTREGUISMO".

3. CONCERNING THE UNO LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL SLATES REJECTED BY THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL, DARTE CHARGED THAT HIS REPRESENTS CONTINUED EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO "CHEAT" THE PEOPLE. HE ASSERTED THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, LEGALISMS DO NOT STAND IN ITS WAY AND ALLEGED THAT EVEN THE CONSTITUTION WAS CHANGED TO ALLOW COL. RIVERA TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY. DUARTE COUNTERED THE "GRAND TREASON" CHARGE OF THE PCN AGAINST THE PDC AS A RESULT OF THE SAN SALADOR MAYORALTY NOMINATION SPLIT, CONTENDING THAT ALL OF UNO IS A UNITED BEHIND MORALES EHRlich AND URGING THE CAPITAL'S VOTERS TO THE POLLS IN HIS SUPPORT.

4. DUARTE ALSO DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF VIOLENCE. HE REFERRED TO THE RECENT BOMBINGS OF POLICE STATIONS AND THE ATTACK THAT MORNING ON TWO SAN SALVADOR RADIO STATIONS(REFTEL) AND REJECTED SUCH TACTICS. DUARTE LISTED THREE TYPES OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE: "INSTITUTIONALIZED" VIOLENCE CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITSELF IN POWER; VIOLENCE STEMMING FROM FRUSTRATION, OFTEN CARRIED OUT BY MISBEGOTTEN YOUTH (SUCH AS THE REGALDO KIDNAPPING) WHICH, HE CONTENDED, HAD PROVED A FUTILE TACTIC; AND "LEGITIMATE" VIOLENCE, SUCH AS THE RIGHT OF INSURRECTION AGAINST DICTATORAL REGIMES SANCTIONED BY THE CONSTITUTION (THE LATTER A VEILED REFERENCE PERHAPS TO IS OWN ROLE IN THE ABORTIVE MARCH 1972 MILITARY REBELLION). DUARTE HELD THAT ALL VIOLENT TACTICS MUST BE REJECTED BUT THAT, IN TURN, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY AT THE POLLS. DUARTE CONCLUDED BY URGING THE FAITHFUL TO VOTE MARCH 10, EVEN IN AREAS WHERE UNO CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN RULED OUT, AND USE THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 00893 042229Z

OCCASION AS A PLEBESITE TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON THE INCUMBENT GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: DUARTE'S LENGTHY PRESENTATION WAS SOMEWHAT MORE HEATED THAN HIS PREVIOUS TV APPEARANCE AND HE DID NOT OFFER ANY CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO THE GOVERNMENT NOW THAT IT HAS REJECTED KEY OPPOSITION SLATES IN THE ASSEMBLY AND MUNICIPAL REACES. NONETHELESS, DUARTE STAYED WITHIN THE ELECTORAL

BALLPARK AND URGED THE PEOPLE TO THE POLLS RATHER THAN TO THE
STREETS. DUARTE WILL CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK WITH
VISITS TO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY AND WOULD HOLD ANOTHER
REALLY IN SAN SALVADOR BEFORE CAMPAIGNING OFFICIALLY ENDS
THE NIGHT OF MARCH 6.
MOSKOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, ELECTION FORECASTS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, EXTREMISTS, UNIVERSITIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, ELECTION CANDIDATES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSAA00893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740370/aaaacndk.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN SALVADOR 0886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS: DUARTE CONTINUES CAMPAIGN FOR UNO
TAGS: PINT, ES, (DUARTE, ANOPLEON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005